Children as bonded labour in beedi industry in Tamil Nadu

3183. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 35,000 children of either sex between five to seven years age are mortgaged with Beedi Industrialists by their parents at Dr. Ambedkar District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for payment of few thousands of rupees the life of these children are crippled and they are tied by to these Beedi Industrialists from the tender years;

(c) whether Government are aware that these children have to work till late at night after finishing the norms fixed by the Beedi kings;

(d) whether Government are aware to the children are paid 1/4 of actual wage and are fed very meagerly during lunch hours;

(e) what steps Government intend to take to punish the guilty Beedi lords for the patent violation of factory laws, Labour Acts etc; and

(f) whether any compensation will be given to these children for the past cruelties by the Beedi Kings?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the State Government of Tamil Nadu and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Indian workers in foreign countries

3184. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Indians, who are working outside the country as on date; and

(b) how many of them are working in (1) Gulf and Middle East, (2) South East Asia, (3) Europe and (4) U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Enforcement machinery for the implementation of laws relating to the child labour

3185. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States and Union Territories where the Enforcement machinery are functioning in respect of child related provisions of the laws; and

(b) how many employers have been prosecuted for the violation of the child-related provisions of the law during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) All the States/Union Territories have enforcement machinery to enforce child related provision of the laws

(b) In 1993-94, 1632 prosecutions have been launched under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, and the Factories Act, 1948. Figures for 1994-95 are as yet not fully available.

Meeting of the wage Board for Journalists and non-journalists

3186. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether first meeting of newly constituted Wage Board for journalists and non-jounrnalists was held in first week of April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some issues were discussed in the meeting;

(d) whether some suggestions were made in the meeting;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government propose to take some follow up action on the issues discussed as well as on suggestions given; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (g) The first meeting of the Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper and News Agency Employees was held on the 3rd April, 1995. In the meeting, among other things, it was decided that Notices under Section 10(1) of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 will be issued in all languages in Newspapers before the 30th April, 1995. Action for issue of Notices has already been taken as copies of Notices have been sent to the D.A.V.P. with instructions to have them issued through Newspapers in all Scheduled languages before the 30th April, 95.

Gurupadaswamy Committee Recommendations on Child Labour

3187. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted the child Labour Cell, Child Labour Advisory Board and Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee as per the recommendations of the Gurupadaswamy Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the work undertaken by these bodies during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) Child Labour Cell in the Ministry of Labour has been set up in 1979. The Cell is concerned with the formulation, coordination and implementation of policies and programmes for the welfare of working children. Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987-Project Based Plan of Act, 9 National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) were under implementation in five States during 1993-94 covering 7000 children. Twelve National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in 1994-95 are under implementation in eight States covering approximately 14,000 children. A major activity taken up under the NCLP is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdraw from employment.

The Child Labour Cell grants financial assistance to voluntary organisations to take up action-oriented projects for child labour. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75 per cent for taking up welfare projects for working children under a grant-in-aid scheme. During 1993-94, the Cell has rendered financial assistance to 6 projects of voluntary organisations. During 1994-95, financial assistance was given to 11 voluntary organisations in the field of child labour for implementation of continuing as well as new projects for the welfare of the working children, to provide non-formal education, supplementary nutrition, health care and vocational skill training.

(ii) The Child Labour Advisory Board was formed on 4.3.1981. The Board has been set up to review the implementation of the existing legislation administered by the Central Government, suggest legislative measures as